Hijacking of Indian Airlines Plane

83. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the findings of the probe carried out in the matter of hijacking of an Airlines Plane, on flight IC-439 on March 27, 1993; and

(b) what are the steps taken/proposed to be taken in the light thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) On 27-3-93, Indian Airlines flight IC-439 was hijacked by a passenger after the aircraft had taken off from Delhi for Hyderabad en-route Madras. The hijacker, on threat of blowing up the aircraft with explosives which he claimed to be in his possession, had demanded that the flight must be taken to Islamabad or Lahore. The Commander of the flight made an effort to land back in Delhi but the hijacker prevented it and forced the flight towards Lahore. The airport authorities of Lahore, however, refused permission to land. The aircraft ultimately landed at Amritsar Airport where after prolonged negotitation, the hijacker surrendered and was taken into custody by the local police. The hijacker was not carrying any fire arms or explosive.

(b) The agencies concerned with security of civil aviation operations have been alerted to ensure strict enforcement of anti-sabotage, anti-hijacking and access control measures.

Foreign Airlines to operate on domestic routes

84. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted foreign Airlines to operate on Indian domestic routes;

(b) if so, the details therof; and

(c) whether this will adversely affect operational viability of the Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Some airlines have been given rights to operate to more than one point in India, on the same flight, but they are not permitted to carry domestic traffic between points within India.

(c) Does not arise.

Modernization of Indian Airports

85. SHRI MENTAY PADAMNABHAM : Will hte Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Airports Authority selected and U.S. firm for the modernisation of Indian Airports;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions in this regard;

(c) what are the Airports which will be modernised and

(d) the total outlay for the entire package of modernisation of Indian Airports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) A project for modernisation of Air Traffic Control facilities at Delhi and Bombay-airports is under implementation by the National Airports Authority. The contract has been awarded to an American company to execute the project on turn-key basis. The project would be completed in 30 months, at an estimated cost of Rs 350 crores approximately.